complaints and consequent action, as deemed appropriate, on them is a continuous administrative process.

The expenditure in Andhra Pradesh region on welfare activities for Beedi workers during the last 3 years is as under;

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Particulars	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Health	401.03	373.84	597.46
Education	404.80	1097.77	1488.43
Housing	9.95	1.32	36.94
Grant-in-aid			60.80
TOTAL:	815.78	1472.93	2183.63

It can be seen therefrom that the expenditure on welfare activities of Beedi workers in Andhra Pradesh region has gone up during the last two years. It is ensured that the interest of Beedi workers is not affected.

ESI hospital for beedi workers

761. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to provide proper medical attention to beedi workers;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to ask the ESIC hospitals to attend to beedi workers;

(c) the details of such plans by Government;

(d) by what date such efforts would commence; and

(e) the number of beedi workers who are getting such medical aid from ESIC or other hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Several Welfare schemes to provide medical benefits to beedi Workers are being run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(b) to (d) The workers, who are covered under the provisions of ESI Act, **1948** including beedi workers are being provided medical care in ESI hospitals. There is no proposal to provide medical treatment to those beedi workers, who are not covered under the provisions of ESI Act from ESI hospitals.

(e) About 40 lakh beedi workers are issued identity cards and all these workers are provided medical care through 206 dispensaries and 4 hospitals set up exclusively for beedi workers in the country. In addition to this, these workers are also eligible for reimbursement of cost of treatment, for specific diseases, taken from other recognized hospitals. Information regarding number of beedi workers getting medical aid from ESIC hospitals is not available as ESIC does not keep industry-wise figures

Construction Workers Act'

762. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the situation of women construction workers is worse today than ever before as globalization has brought with it the perils of mechanization and loss of jobs;

(b) whether Government are considering to review of labour displacing technologies and policies;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the construction Workers Act have left out some sections of construction workers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) No Sir, it has been observed that the number of construction workers including women construction workers has increased considerably since 1991. As per census 1991, the total number of construction workers in the country were 55.43 lakhs. As per the estimates of National Sample Survey (NSS) (1999-2000) the number of construction workers including women workers were about 176 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Most of the skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled, manual workers in the areas of construction, alterations, repairs, maintenance etc. in relation to building, streets, roads, railways, airfields, tramways, irrigation etc. are